

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicant's undersigned attorney is herewith updating the respective and related application serial number to the related applications that were contemporaneously-filed on June 23, 2003. No new matter is added in this amendment to the Specification.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are currently amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-14 is found at page 26, line 13-page 27, line 21, at Figure 1(c), and at page 47, lines 17-19. Claims 15-20 are new. Support for new claims 15-16 is found at page 42, lines 1-3. Support for new claims 17-18 is found at page 26, line 13-page 27, line 21, and at Figure 1(c). Support for new claims 19-20 is found at column 17, lines 15-35 of US patent 6,459,436, which is incorporated by reference at page 44, lines 6-7.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 101

Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 5, as now amended, each require outputting from a portable digital camera an in-camera processed, still image including a face to a digital rendering device for viewing. Claims 1 and 5 now require a tangible result and the rejection is overcome. Claims 8 and 12, as now amended, each recite a computer program product encoded on one or more computer readable media for a computer to carry out the steps of a program method, and their rejection is overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato (US 2004/0120399). Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14 have been amended and now require generating a collection of low resolution images including a face, and tracking the face within the collection of low resolution images. This advantageous feature permits information contained within the low resolution images concerning the face, or other features within or around the face, to be used in providing enhanced-quality in-camera processing of the face, or other features within or around the face, in a main digitally-acquired still image. As the face is deemed of primary importance, a greater emphasis is placed on processing it than external features of the digitally-acquired image. The limited processing resources that are available on a portable camera are concentrated on the important face region, and are conserved by obtaining and tracking faces within low resolution rather than full resolution images. By tracking a collection of low resolution images, the tasks of finding the face in subsequent images, and of gathering information concerning the face or another proximate feature from the low resolution images, are more efficiently-performed on the portable camera.

As understood, Kato does not teach or suggest this feature. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that in combination with other recited elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, each of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14 are allowable over Kato.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Jacquin et al. (US 5,764,803). Claims 3 and 10 are dependent respectively from claims 1 and 8 which have been amended and now require generating a collection of low resolution images including a face, and tracking the face within the collection of low resolution images. As understood, neither Kato nor Jacquin et al. teaches or suggests this feature. For the reasons

set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that in combination with other recited elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, each of claims 3 and 10 are allowable over Kato in view of Jacquin et al.

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Savakis et al. (US 2003/0059121). Claims 6 and 13 are dependent respectively from claims 5 and 12 which have been amended and now require generating a collection of low resolution images including a face, and tracking the face within the collection of low resolution images. As understood, neither Kato nor Savakis et al. teaches or suggests this feature. For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that in combination with other recited elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, each of claims 3 and 10 are allowable over Kato in view of Savakis et al.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2019. A duplicate page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Andrew Vernon Smith/

Dated: April 16, 2007

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set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that in combination with other recited elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, each of claims 3 and 10 are allowable over Kato in view of Jacquin et al.

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Savakis et al. (US 2003/0059121). Claims 6 and 13 are dependent respectively from claims 5 and 12 which have been amended and now require generating a collection of low resolution images including a face, and tracking the face within the collection of low resolution images. As understood, neither Kato nor Savakis et al. teaches or suggests this feature. For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that in combination with other recited elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, each of claims 3 and 10 are allowable over Kato in view of Savakis et al.

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